

# Inter-Municipal Bicycle Trails Working Group

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the Inter-Municipal Bicycle Trails Working Group?** The Inter-Municipal Bicycle Trails Working Group (henceforth “The Group” or “The Inter-Municipal Group”) is a body of representatives from thirteen municipalities within the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) which will meet regularly and create an agreement for the planning, development, promotion, and maintenance of the bicycle path network within the ATHA district.

**How was the Group started?** Several County Councilmembers, the Director of ATHA, and other local municipal leaders saw the need for coordination in creating and promoting a safe, well-marked, connected, and integrated bicycle and pedestrian path network. Through the leadership of ATHA’s Director, Aaron Marcavitch, and support from the Council, the thirteen municipalities within ATHA are being contacted and encouraged to designate a representative for the Group as well as to sign on to the Group’s Memorandum of Understanding.

**Why do we need a Memorandum of Understanding?** A Memorandum of Understanding is simply a framework agreement for the Group’s purpose, how it will operate, and sets a foundation for a cooperative approach in the development and improvement of the bike trails network. The Memorandum of Understanding is amendable, and as participation in the Group is voluntary, any member can withdraw from the Memorandum of Understanding by officially notifying the Group’s Chair and other parties.

**How is the Group’s goals related to the Prince George’s Countywide Master Plan of Transportation Bikeways & Trails?** The initial leadership and members of the Group have been interacting regularly with Park & Planning, coordinating with the Master Plan’s design, but also working with the staff to seek improvements upon the plan, especially within ATHA’s district. The Group has also been regularly attending the Bicycle and Trails Advisory Group (BTAG) to inform BTAG’s members of its purpose and exchange information for the betterment of the entire Master Plan.

**If Park & Planning is creating a Countywide Master Plan through their staff and they are having regular BTAG meetings, why is the The Inter-Municipal Group needed?** Park & Planning's Master Plan calls for the creation of 400 new miles of hard and soft trails in Prince George's County by 2040. This is a huge goal- given Park & Planning's resources, it will be a lengthy period before their Master Plan is fully implemented. The Inter-Municipal Group, being focused on only a small area of the County, will be dedicated to a cooperative approach in developing and improving the bicycle path network for the ATHA district in a much shorter time period.

**Can you provide more insight on what is meant by "developing and improving" the bicycle path network?** A large percentage of the bicycle trails in the ATHA district are not interconnected, are poorly marked, and are less than safe to ride on. Additionally, maintenance responsibilities are vague for certain trail sections. The Group will focus on a plan to add paths in creating an interconnected network of bicycle paths, establishing markers and signage that is universal to the ATHA (and County) district, enhancing the trails to make them safer, define and develop maintenance agreements to ensure all jurisdictions (and other organizations) are aware of their maintenance responsibilities and follow through with them, and develop a strategic campaign to promote the bicycle path network.

**Our municipality has limited personnel, and we're not sure any elected official could attend your meetings. Who can we send to represent our jurisdiction?** We understand the limitations of some municipalities. The ideal would be to have one of your elected officials represent you. If this is not possible, maybe a staff member, or a community leader, activist, or other resident that has an interest in bicycling, walking, health & fitness, or simply wants to see an improvement in their community through less motorized traffic. If you put the word out to the community, you may be amazed at who would be willing to attend our meetings and represent your town or city.

***We hope this FAQ sheet has answered any questions you have about the Inter-Municipal Bicycle Trails Working Group. If you have any further inquiries, please contact Aaron Marcavitch at 301-887-0777.***